APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine

Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)

March 30, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Counties	Survey		Diagnostics	
	Number of Traps	Number of Positive Traps	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive
Alameda	*1,150*	*33*	*0*	*39*
Contra Costa	*1,220*	*12*	*0*	*12*
San Francisco	*98*	*7*	*0*	*23*
Marin	*295*	*3*	*0*	*3*
Total to Date	*2,763*	*55*	*0*	*77*

- **Survey**
  - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana,* in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and Marin counties.
  - 2,763 traps have been deployed within a 30-mile radius of the initial LBAM detection. Traps are being inspected weekly.
  - In addition, a total of 1,310 traps have also been deployed in other counties, including Los Angeles (293), Napa (295), Orange (175), Sacramento (50), San Diego (173), San Mateo (293), Santa Clara (271), and Yolo (15).

- **Identification and Diagnostics**
  - Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. All LBAM "presumptive positive" moths from each county are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, for confirmation. In counties where previous specimens have been confirmed by SEL, subsequent captures are identified by CDFA.
  - Seventy-four (74) moths have been confirmed as LBAM from traps in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties. SEL also confirmed on March 30 the 3 presumptive positive moths from Marin County as LBAM. This brings the total number of confirmed LBAM to date to 77, all within a ten-mile radius of the initial LBAM find.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**
  APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States and New Zealand to discuss and recommend LBAM survey methods, mitigation tools, and eradication strategies. This includes a number of environmentally friendly options – such as mating disruption with pheromone – that have been used elsewhere against LBAM infestations.

- **Incident Command**
  Thirty-six (36) personnel are on-site (32-CDFA; 4-APHIS) and assuming various roles within the ICS structure.

- **Regulatory Actions**
  A regulatory strategy is being developed to mitigate the spread of LBAM from areas where the pest has been confirmed. In the meantime, CDFA has issued a total of 21 compliance agreements to establishments (nursery stock and green waste) located within 1.5 miles from any confirmed LBAM site in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties. There are no such establishments located within 1.5 miles of the LBAM detections in Marin County.

- **Treatment**
  CDFA and APHIS are examining treatment options with the LBAM Technical Working Group. CDFA is researching registration needs for biopesticides.

Trade:

- Many countries such as Chile, South Korea, Peru, and South Africa list LBAM as a Quarantine Pest and may require certification attesting pest freedom for commodities such as apples, pears, grapes, citrus, cherries, and stone fruits. Mexico and Canada may also require some type of certification.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requested on March 28, 2007 additional information regarding the LBAM situation, including U.S. quarantine plans and import requirements of host commodities originating from infested areas of the world.

Communication and Outreach:

- Public Information Officers (PIO) from APHIS and CDFA are in the process of developing communication plans designed to inform stakeholders and cooperators of the survey objectives and response plans.
- The National Plant Board and APHIS sponsored a tele-conference on March 28, 2007 to inform States of the LBAM situation in California.
- Representatives from CDFA, APHIS, and Alameda County briefed on March 28 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on the LBAM situation.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.

- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.

- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed that the two samples submitted were positive, and validated the results using morphological testing.

- USDA and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007, announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California.

- USDA-APHIS sent a letter to all SPROs on March 22, 2007, informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.

- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana,* is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia.

- Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.

- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause significant damage to many different kinds of plants, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pip fruit (apples and pears), grapes, and citrus.